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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/533,022	04/26/2005	Thomas Schmidt	502901-335	2198
27799	7590	05/08/2009		
COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE LLP			EXAMINER	
551 FIFTH AVENUE			WEINSTEIN, LEONARD J	
SUITE 1210				
NEW YORK, NY 10176			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3746	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/08/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/533,022

Applicant(s)

SCHMIDT, THOMAS

Examiner

LEONARD J. WEINSTEIN

Art Unit

3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 12, 2009 has been entered.

2. The examiner acknowledges the amendments to claims 1 and 6.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 3 objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. As amended, claim 1 includes all the limitations of claim 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
6. Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchiyama et al. US 5,941,730 in view of in view of Zoell et al. US 6478613. Uchiyama teaches all the limitations as claimed for a connection piece for a fuel pump/tank application including: **[claims 1 and 3]** a connection piece (22, 23, 25) comprising a receiving device 22, and a plug 1 arranged in the receiving device 22, the plug 1 having electrical contacts 8 for connecting to an electric device such as a motor of the fuel pump (Uchiyama - col. 1 ll. 9-12; col. 6 ll. 50-55) to a mains supply and an integrally formed, circumferential sealing lip 27 which includes a region that is oriented toward the electrical contacts 8 and which seals (via contact with element 3 as shown in figure 7) the plug 1 against the receiving device 22; **[claim 2]** a connection piece (22, 23, 25) wherein the sealing lip 27 is arranged on the plug 1 in a region of a bushing 41 of the electrical contacts 8; **[claim 6]** and connection piece (22, 23, 25) defines a recess (as defined by space surrounded by element 25), said an edge 3 around said electrical contacts 8, said recess (area defined by element 25) receiving said edge 3 (via element 27) and said circumferential sealing lip 27 surrounding said recess (area defined by element 25) on an inner side of said connection piece (22, 23, 25).

In the alternative Uchiyama may also be interpreted whereas to teach the limitations for a connection piece for a fuel pump/tank application including: **[claims 1 and 3]** a connection piece (22, 23, 25) comprising a receiving device 22, and a plug 1

arranged in the receiving device 22, the plug 1 having electrical contacts 8 for connecting to an electric device such as a motor of the fuel pump (Uchiyama - col. 1 ll. 9-12; col. 6 ll. 50-55) to a mains supply and an integrally formed, circumferential sealing lip 33 which includes a region 34 that is oriented toward the electrical contacts 8 and which seals (via contact with element 30; see figure 1) the plug 1 against the receiving device 22; **[claim 4]** and wherein the sealing lip 33 is elastically deformable, as shown in figure 6.

Uchiyama fails to teach the limitation that is taught by Zoell for a plug that is extrusion coated with plastic. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have coated the plug of Pryce with plastic as taught by Zoell to protect the parts from the fuel (Zoell - Abstract).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-4 and 6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure are cited on form 892 herewith.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEONARD J. WEINSTEIN whose telephone number is (571)272-9961. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Devon Kramer can be reached on (571) 272-7118. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Devon C Kramer/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3746

/Leonard J Weinstein/
Examiner, Art Unit 3746